

# METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR ESTABLISHING DYNAMIC TUNNEL ACCESS SESSIONS IN A COMMUNICATION NETWORK

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and apparatus for implementing dynamic tunnel access sessions at a  
network device within a communications network. The tunnel access sessions are created  
between a network device, typically a gateway device and a network service, such as the  
Internet or a corporate intranet. The dynamic tunnel access sessions provide for  
subscriber-transparent tunneling. The present invention does not require special client-  
10 side software to be loaded on the remote host of the subscriber, and does not require any  
manual configuration of the remote host. A subscriber is capable of establishing more  
than one tunnel access session to more than one network service during a network  
session. Additionally, more than one subscriber who accesses the communication  
network via the network device is able to establish a communication link with a pre-  
15 existing tunnel.

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